

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IGA-02
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /088 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING ON HUMAN RIGHTS

, FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF THE PORTION OF THE NOON
MARCH 3 PRESS BRIEFING THAT HAD TO DO WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION IN NICARAGUA.

Q. THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA -- DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT
ON THESE ACCUSATIONS BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS, AND
HOW DOES THIS FIT INTO OUR GENERAL STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

A. AS PART OF OUR BROAD EFFORTS IN THAT AREA, GRAHAM, THE
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA IS BEING LOOKED AT ON
A CONTINUING BASIS. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME OF
REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NICARAGUA; AND IF I
AM NOT MISTAKEN, THESE WERE THE SUBJECT OF HEARINGS BEFORE
CONGRESS LAST JULY.

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WE CONTINUE TO MAKE INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO GATHER MORE INFOR-
MATION RELATED TO THE REPORTS, AND I WOULD MENTION THAT WE
HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE KNOWN OUR CONCERN TO THE NICARAGUAN
GOVERNMENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

- E THAT?

Q. HOW HAVE YOU DONE THAT?

A. THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS.

Q. WHEN WAS THE LAST SUCH CONTACT, FRED?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WERE THESE IN THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION AS WELL OR
IN THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION ONLY?

A. I MENTIONED THE HEARINGS ON THE HILL LAST JULY. I
THINK THIS HAS BEEN OF CONTINUING INTEREST OVER QUITE A
PERIOD OF TIME.

Q. WAS IT RENEWED, FRED, BY THIS ADMINISTRATION?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON WHAT HAS BEEN DONE
IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS----

Q. FRED ---

A. ---BUT I THINK YOU CAN CONCLUDE FROM WHAT I HAVE SAID
THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS CERTAINLY INTERESTED IN IT,
CARRYING ON THE INTEREST OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION.

YES, JUAN?

Q. YOU TALKED ABOUT BEING AWARE OF REPORTS OF HUMAN
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RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. ARE THOSE PRESS REPORTS OR ARE THOSE
DIPLOMATIC REPORTS OR ARE THOSE YOUR OWN REPORTS?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS ON WHAT THOSE REPORTS ARE,
BUT CERTAINLY THEY ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO CAUSE
US TO LOOK INTO IT. LET US PUT IT THAT WAY.

Q. FRED ---

A. YES.

Q. -- NICARAGUA, TO THE UNITED STATES, IS NOT EXACTLY A
CLOSED SOCIETY. WHAT HAS TAKEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT SO
LONG -- SINCE LAST JULY -- TO COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF
CONCLUSION ON THIS INVESTIGATION?

A. WE ARE STILL LOOKING AT IT, MARVIN.

Q. I HEARD YOU SAY THAT THE FIRST TIME.

A. I DO NOT THINK YOU CAN PUT A TIME PERIOD ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

Q. WAS THE SUBJECT OF HEARINGS -- I'M JUST FOLLOWING WHAT YOU SAID.

A. YES.

Q. ON THE SUBJECT OF HEARINGS IN JULY, YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT HAVE, IF ANYTHING, RATHER INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GATHER THIS INFORMATION FAIRLY QUICKLY.

A. YES.

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Q. WHAT'S YOUR CONCLUSION? ARE THERE MASSIVE VIOLATIONS, AS THE PRIESTS SAY, OR NOT?

A. A CONCLUSION PER SE I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO REALLY GIVE YOU, BUT I JUST SAID THAT WE HAVE MADE OUR CONCERN KNOWN. SO EVIDENTLY IN THE PROCESS WE HAVE MADE -- WE HAVE DRAWN A --

Q. YES, BUT CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE CONCERNS --

A. -- CERTAIN NUMBER OF CONCLUSIONS ALONG THE WAY WITH REGARD TO OUR CONCERN, AND THESE HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT. SO IN THAT SENSE CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN DRAWN. WHAT THEY ARE AND ON WHAT BASIS I AM NOT AT LIBERTY TO GO INTO HERE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL WHETHER THAT HAS BEEN PASSED ON IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS?

A. NO. AS I SAY, I DO NOT KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS; BUT ONE WOULD CERTAINLY INFER FROM WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS CERTAINLY CARRYING ON THE INTEREST OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION THERE. SO WHAT WE HAVE DONE, I CANNOT TELL YOU; BUT I CAN CERTAINLY UNDERLINE THAT CONCERN IS THERE.

Q. WELL, FRED, CAN YOU CHECK TO SEE IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS IF ANYTHING SPECIFIC HAS BEEN DONE -- IF THERE HAVE BEEN NEW FINDINGS, NEW EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN, ANY NEW ACTIONS TAKEN -- RATHER THAN JUST REPEATING SOMETHING -- YOU

KNOW, THE LAST STATED DEMONSTRATION OF AMERICAN CONCERN
WAS IN THESE HEARINGS SEVEN OR EIGHT MONTHS AGO?

A. LET ME LOOK INTO THAT. O.K.?

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Q. FRED, AMBASSADOR THEBERGE WAS QUOTED TODAY IN A NEWS-
PAPER AS SAYING THAT MANY OF THE COMPLAINTS BY THE OPPO-
SITION ARE ACCURATE. WAS HE TALKING AS AN AMBASSADOR OR
PRIVATE CITIZEN, OR IS THAT THE VIEW --

A. I HAVE NOT SEEN THE QUOTATION, JUAN, SO I WOULD --

Q. IT'S IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.

A. -- HESITATE TO MAKE ANY COMMENT. I HAVE NOT SEEN THE
QUOTATION YOU ARE REFERRING TO. SORRY.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE048260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MMBOVA:MKF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770075-0466
Format: TEL
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TAGS: SHUM, NU, US
To: MANAGUA
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